



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/966,680	09/28/2001	James R. Hornsby	6881.03	5486

42173 7590 05/03/2005

LAW OFFICE OF RICHARD B. KLAR
28 East Old Country Road
Hicksville, NY 11801

EXAMINER

SUHOL, DMITRY

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

3714

DATE MAILED: 05/03/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/966,680

Applicant(s)

HORNSBY ET AL.

Examiner

Dmitry Suhol

Art Unit

3714

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 11 April 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 22-27 and 32-40 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 25-27 and 32-36 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 22-24 and 37-38 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 39 and 40 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Objections

Claim 37 is objected to because of the following informalities: The features in sections b, c and d each start with capital letters (i.e. A motor, A microprocessor, A swipe card reader). Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 22-23 and 37-38 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Li et al '223 in view of Wooley et al '791. Li discloses an amusement device containing all of the elements of the claims including a body (fig. 20, element A) as required by claims 22 and 37, features carried by a body at least some of the features comprising at least one transport element moveably connected to the body or at least two arms moveably connected to the body (movable elements coupled to a motor described in col. 7, lines 50-64) (fig. 20, elements B) as required by claim 22, a means for powering a device and some features carried by the body (col. 4, lines 22-26) as required by claim 22, a card reader carried by the body (data card reader and col. 7, lines 59-64 and fig. 20, element 210) as required by claim 22 and 37, a microprocessor

Art Unit: 3714

operably coupled to a means for powering, a card reader and motor (fig. 17, element 25 and col. 5, lines 21-23) as required by claims 22 and 37. The card reader adapted to receive information from the card and transmit the information to the microprocessor, where the information activates one or more functions of movement and defense, as required by claims 22 and 37, is described in col. 7, lines 59-64. An information card, as required by claim 23, is shown in figure 1 as element 10 and described in col. 7, lines 59-64 with the card game information shown in figure 1 as picture information and data information 12. A motor associated with the body, as required by claim 37, is shown as element 62 in figure 20. At least two movable elements, as required by claim 37, are shown as elements (B) where it is considered that the arms or legs of the device are reconfigurable to a different position in which case the device is transformed. At least two couplings, as required by claim 38, are inherent in the device since without the coupling the movable elements would not be retained on the body nor would they be movable as intended (col. 7, lines 50-56).

Li lacks a teaching of a card reader being of a swipe card type. However, Wooley discloses a swipe card reader used to synthesize commands for generating speech or sound in a variety of devices including games (col. 1, lines 25-31 and col. 2, lines 3-7). Therefore it would have been obvious to incorporate a swipe card reader for the card reader of Li for the purpose of providing an improved data storage and retrieval system which controls voice or sound synthesizer, especially since one of the uses of the cards of Li is for the generation of sound.

Art Unit: 3714

Claim 24 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Li et al '223 and Wooley et al '791, as stated above, and further in view of Mowrer et al '716. Li, as modified by Wooley, fails to explicitly teach armor configured to be attachable to a body, as required by claim 24. However, Mowrer discloses a sound producing amusement device which can be embodied as any type of figure which teaches that it is known to provide armor which is attachable to the body of the device (col. 2, lines 61-63). Therefore it would have been obvious to incorporate armor attachable to a body portion with the device of Li, as modified by Wooley, for the purpose of adding a variety of ornamental surface details and interest to the user.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 25-27 and 32-36 are allowed.

Claims 39 and 40 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed April 11th, 2005 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Applicants argue that the combination of Li and Wooley references fails to teach all of the claimed elements. Specifically, applicants argue that since the data swipe card teachings of Wooley are limited to controlling sound then the

Art Unit: 3714

combination of the references does not meet the limitations of activating at least one function of movement or defense. In response, the examiner points out that Li teaches a card reader responsive to card information which activates sound and movement functions. Wooley is merely relied upon to teach that information carried on a card (as well as the card reader) can be in swipe format. Therefore, since Li already teaches movement of his device in response to the information carried by his card all the combination of Li and Wooley clearly meet the claimed limitations.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Dmitry Suhol whose telephone number is 571-272-4430. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon - Friday 8:30am-5:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Derris Banks can be reached on (571)272-4419. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Art Unit: 3714

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Dmitry Suhol
Examiner
Art Unit 3714

ds